



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2

290 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JUL 31 2006

Amy Jackson-Grove
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building
Clinton Avenue and N. Pearl Street
Albany, New York 12207

Dear Ms. Jackson-Grove:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the draft environmental impact statement (draft EIS) for the **Long Island Expressway Rest Area upgrade project, Huntington, Suffolk County, New York**, (CEQ # 20060233). This review was conducted in accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7609, PL 91-604 12(a), 84 Stat. 1709), and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The stated purpose for the project is to upgrade the existing rest area between exits 51 and 52 on the Long Island Expressway (LIE), to be consistent with the New York State Rest Area Plan, promote economic growth on Long Island by providing tourist information facilities, improve highway safety by providing a convenient place for motorists to rest during long trips and provide a facility for truck inspection. Of the alternatives considered, one alternative is offered as the only feasible alternative. This alternative consists of reconstructing the small rest area on the eastbound side of the LIE on a 10 acre site just east of Carl's Straight Path, as well as replacing the Carl's Straight Path Bridge over the LIE. Another aspect of the project is that 27 truck bays are proposed for tractor trailer parking, overnight stays, and inspections.

We greatly appreciate the draft EIS's discussion of truck stop electrification (TSE) for the rest area and were encouraged that TSE was considered as part of the project. We recognize the uncertainty of direction for TSE technologies; however, we would like to see a stronger commitment to TSE for the project such that the Record of Decision will indicate that the designs for the needed infrastructure for TSE will be in the final project plans. As the draft EIS pointed out, EPA has been working with the New York State Energy Research and Development Agency (NYSERDA) to identify rest stop electrification opportunities. EPA has grant and technical assistance programs, such as Smartway, that are instrumental to realizing the advancement of TSE and we believe that this project would be an excellent candidate for assistance. We would like to meet with staff from NYSDOT and FHWA to discuss partnership opportunities and the available options that can be used to make the TSE at this Rest Area possible.

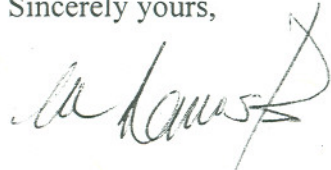
Another project design feature that we would like to recommend as an excellent opportunity for environmental stewardship is the use of specialized porous asphalt as a stormwater treatment strategy. While the project proposes adequate stormwater controls, we believe that the development of the new porous asphalt technologies as stormwater

treatment holds quite a bit of promise. A number of technologies have been tested that have proven to be effective and we direct your attention to the studies done by the University of New Hampshire's Stormwater Center. We encourage FHWA to examine the potential for the use of porous asphalt as a stormwater treatment measure, even for a portion of the area as a pilot project. We would also be pleased to meet with NYSDOT and FHWA to discuss this further.

In conclusion, based on our review and in accordance with EPA policy, we have rated this draft EIS as LO-1, indicating that we have Lack of Objections (LO) about the project and that the draft EIS contains sufficient information (1), to adequately address the issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to hearing from you regarding the environmental stewardship opportunities that this project presents with the Truck Stop Electrification possibilities and the innovative stormwater treatment strategies. Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact David Carlson of my staff at (212) 637-3502.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Filippelli", with a stylized flourish at the end.

for John Filippelli, Chief
Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch